

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 18, lines 19-24, of the Specification with the following:

In a variant of this example illustrated in FIG. 5 flexible tubes are incorporated into the vanes 535. The tubes terminate in nozzles 537 located at the center of the pads. Other elements in FIG. 5 ~~bear reference numerals~~ are equivalent to those of FIG. 4 ~~to the extent they are equivalent in structure and function~~ and are hence not further described.

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

~~A subpart of a drill string is described having an outer circumferential surface which is contoured and adapted to engage the wall of the borehole with a small angle of attack while exerting during rotary drilling operations an compacting pressure on mud cake and/or cuttings present in the annulus between the drill string and the borehole.~~ The present invention generally relates to an apparatus and methods for improving the stability of a wellbore during drilling operations using a rotary drill string. More specifically, embodiments of the present invention provide systems and methods for enhancing the performance of the filter or mud cake layer on the wall of the wellbore as a protective and isolating layer.